

Washington, DC – Wednesday, Congressman Harry Teague called on United States Trade Representative Ron Kirk to take steps to protect American dairy farmers in the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade agreement at a meeting of the Dairy Farmers Caucus today.

At today's meeting, Teague and other Caucus members urged Ambassador Kirk to seek an exemption for U.S.-New Zealand dairy trade in Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations.

Teague also delivered a letter to Ambassador Kirk indicating his strong concerns about how the U.S.-New Zealand dairy trade in the Trans-Pacific Partnership could negatively impact New Mexico's growing dairy industry. According to New Mexico State University, New Mexico is the nation's seventh largest milk-producing state and generates 17,158 jobs in New Mexico annually.

On January 27, the Dairy Farmers Caucus, including Teague, wrote to Ambassador Kirk expressing concern that dairy prices in the United States would decline further with increased trade between the U.S. and New Zealand, where a single corporation dominates 92 percent of the nation's milk production and 40 percent of global dairy trade.

“As the representative of a major dairy producing state, I am especially concerned about the

long-term national security implications of losing our ability to produce food here at home. We cannot outsource our dairy production to the lowest global bidder without risking the safety of our health and our local economies.” – Congressman Harry Teague

[Click here](#) to read the letter Congressman Teague delivered to U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk.